



For many years the South Florida Water Management District has encouraged public recreational use of its canals and water storage areas. Numerous access sites and related recreational facilities have been developed in cooperation with other state agencies, the federal government, counties, municipalities and the private sector.

With the passage of the Resource Rivers Act in 1981, the District embarked on a major land acquisition program designed to secure and protect vital water resource lands for the benefit of existing and future generations. To date, the District has acquired over 300,000 acres pursuant to this legislation (popularly referred to as the Save Our Rivers program). The Florida Legislature has mandated that these lands be managed and maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner and made available to the public for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, consistent with their suitability for these uses and their environmental sensitivity.

Proper regulation of public use is essential to protect the natural and cultural resources of these lands and to avoid conflicts between users and/or user groups. To this end, the District has adopted a public use rule which sets forth general rules and regulations applicable to all District lands within established management areas. This public use guide has been developed to inform the public about the location of the designated management areas, the authorized public uses therein, and the special provisions related thereto.

When appropriate, the District solicits the assistance of other agencies, units of local government, and the private sector in the management of selected land areas. The type and extent of the assistance to be provided are set forth in cooperative management agreements. In situations where a cooperating entity, such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has its own rules for a specific tract of land, the District's regulations will supplement those of said entity. Care will be taken to avoid incompatible or conflicting rules.



Introduction

